



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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THOUSAND OAKS WOMAN SENTENCED IN ARMS TRAFFICKING CASE

LOS ANGELES – A Thousand Oaks woman has been sentenced to 30 months in prison for conspiring to illegally export parts for fighter jets and guided missiles to the People's Republic of China in violation of the Arms Export Control Act.

Xiuwen "Jennifer" Liang, 34, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Wilson. The Chinese national was also fined \$6,000 and will face deportation when she finishes serving her sentence.

Liang and her husband Jinghua Zhuang, 35, were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in February 2003 as part of a five-year undercover investigation that also involved the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The probe targeted companies that sell defense articles and military parts over the Internet to foreign buyers without obtaining export licenses or complying with the arms embargoes. Zhuang was previously sentenced to 30 months in prison for his role in the scheme.

ICE agents say the couple, who owned a Thousand Oaks-based company called Maytone International, attempted to illegally export components for F-14 fighter jets, HAWK missile systems, Tow missile systems, and guidance technology for AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles to China.

"Companies that jeopardize America's security for the sake of profits are priority targets for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security," said Loraine Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Los Angeles. "The sensitive items this company sought to export are controlled for good reason – in the wrong hands, they pose threats to U.S. forces abroad and to Americans at home."

Under the Arms Export Control Act and International Traffic in Arms Regulations, the transfer of military aircraft parts is prohibited without an export license for reasons of U.S. national security. There are currently embargoes in place against the transfer of such parts to the People's Republic of China. Because of the embargoes, it is illegal to sell or transfer or propose to sell or transfer any defense articles to the People's Republic of China or to any person acting on behalf of a Chinese entity without a license.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.